

Calgary and District Beekeepers Association Meeting

7:00 pm, November 9, 2011

Banff Trail Community Centre

Executive present: Ken Crebbin - President, Gerry Popowich - Vice President,

Gillian Colbourne - Treasurer, Regrets: Bert Blouin - Secretary

Attendance:

Meeting opened at 7:10 pm. by President Ken, with 29 people in attendance including 1 visitor from Texas. Members in attendance introduced and polled on "winter readiness" of their bees.

Small Cell Frames - discussion

Daniel S. is ordering small cell frames from Mann Lake. According to some sources smaller bees may be healthier and may have a higher tolerance to Varoa mites as well as being resistant to various bee diseases. Dan is inviting any one interested to participate in his contemplated bulk order.

Alberta Bee News

Ken reported that we can get a bulk discount for memberships if people want to receive the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Gillian C. reported that the Club has a balance of **\$3,108.99** plus memberships sold at this meeting.

Aggie Days

Ken reported dates for Aggie Days this year – April 18th through 22nd, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. A park pass is included for all volunteers. Club needs 4 or 5 people per shift. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday are attended mostly by school students. Days attended by the public are Saturday and Sunday.

Honey Competition and Christmas Pot Luck

Date: December 09, Hall will be available at 5:00pm for set up, volunteers will be needed (and appreciated) to place tables and chairs. Evening scheduled to start at 5:30pm when honey samples will be accepted for judging.

Honey Competition

As discussed at the October meeting attending beekeepers are encouraged to participate in the competition which will be judged by long time area beekeeper Ron Miksha.

Bruce Aitken mentioned that 500 gm. glass jars was the standard for competitions and he made some available at the meeting for contestants Categories will be: Dark honey, light honey and creamed. More details are available at: <http://www.calgarybeekeepers.com/>

Potluck Dinner and Social

Lorraine C. is organizing this Pot luck dinner and she can be contacted at: lcrebbin@telus.net. Her phone contact is (403)938-7285. Again the location is the Banff Trail Community Hall, (2115, 20th Ave. N.W. in Calgary.)

Swarms

Ken C. reported that they had over 200 calls for swarms in 2011. Some calls came through Calgary-311, others via our website. Many of the calls were wasps and bumblebees. A list of swarm catchers will be compiled to alleviate the work load on Ken and family.

There was considerable discussion about the pro's and con's of charging to respond to a swarm call and the value to both the caller and the beekeeper of removing honeybee swarms. The group did not arrive at any final decisions or protocol on behalf of the Club. A charge of \$100.00 per swarm was discussed and many thought it was reasonable considering that exterminators charge \$140.00 to destroy a wasp nests.

Fort Calgary Hive

Bert and several other club members are working on a proposal to place a demonstration hive on the site for educational purposes.

Coffee and cookie Break

Beeworks video

Volume One - Getting Started – featuring beekeeper David Eyre - methods of starting a hive, successful smoker fuel (tightly rolled corrugated cardboard!), use of hive cloths.

Handouts

- Treatment with Oxalic Acid
- Overwintering

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Next general meeting scheduled for Wednesday January 11th, 2012. **

** Refer to Calgary and District Beekeepers Association Web site for possible change of location and day as Banff Trail Community center is no longer available on Wednesdays.

I am grateful to Janne H. recording and preparing these minutes in my absence.

Bert Blouin,

Secretary, Calgary and District Beekeepers Association.